



# Congressman **Tom Lantos**

**12<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
**(San Mateo County / San Francisco)**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 10, 2003**

**FOR INFORMATION CALL:**  
**Bob King- (202) 225-6735**

---

## **TOM LANTOS ANNOUNCES HOUSE ADOPTS FUNDING FOR KEY BAY AREA TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

### **Bill Includes \$100 Million for Bart; Funding Also Provided for Zero-emissions Bus Program and Oyster Point Ferry**

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo County/San Francisco) welcomed the passage of the transportation appropriations bill for fiscal year 2004 by the House of Representatives late last night, and he was particularly pleased with the inclusion of key transportation funding projects in the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District that were in the bill.

The House version of the bill provides \$100 million for BART for construction costs of the Airport Extension that was opened to the public in June of this year. This amount would bring the federal contributions for the project to \$470 million, with the federal government still committed to provide an additional \$280 million. The bill also includes \$800,000 for SamTrans and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) for the Zero-Emissions bus project and \$500,000 for a new ferry for the proposed ferry route between Oyster Point in South San Francisco and San Francisco. These special projects are in addition to the routine funding for California transportation that are provided on a formula basis to each state.

“Federal transportation dollars make the wheels go around in the Bay Area,” said Congressman Lantos. “Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) and other members of the Bay Area Congressional delegation have worked closely together on this project and other metropolitan transportation priorities. I am delighted that we have had great success in getting this funding for our area. We will have to work with the Senate now to assure that we retain these amounts.”

Congressman Lantos worked with Representative Anna Eshoo (D-Atherton) in successfully obtaining \$800,000 for SamTrans and the VTA to purchase six hydrogen fuel-cell buses for its Zero-Emission Bus Demonstration Program. Under this partnership, SamTrans and VTA are working to reduce bus emissions and comply with new clean air regulations. Congressman Lantos stated, “We are on the cutting edge in testing and developing this exciting new technology that promises to help improve our air quality.”

Tom Lantos also successfully sought \$500,000 for the San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority (WTA) for a ferry vessel to service a proposed new ferry route between Oyster Point in South San Francisco and downtown San Francisco. The WTA conducted extensive ridership studies for the South San Francisco service with oversight from the Metropolitan Transit Commission. The studies project 2,187 daily passenger trips on this proposed new route to San Francisco. The WTA and the City of South San Francisco are funding the next level of ridership studies. "This significant new service will provide an additional dimension in our effort to provide transportation alternatives, reduce congestion and improve air quality for all of us on the Peninsula," said Congressman Lantos.

The Transportation, Treasury, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004 provides annual funding for the Departments of Transportation and Treasury, the U.S. Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President and several independent federal agencies. While the bill boosts highway funding, it cuts Amtrak and reduces other transit priorities.

Now that the House has acted, the Senate is expected to complete its work on the legislation. Once both Houses pass the final version of the bill and the President signs it into law, federal expenditures are provided for fiscal year 2004, which begins October 1, 2003.

— # # # —